

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 005305
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:AAHOUGHTON:DEF
APPROVED BY NEA;NVELIOTES
S/S-O: TGMARTIN

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O 092154Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 005305

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PBOR, IS, U.S., EG, JO

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT FROM BEGIN ON SETTLEMENTS
ISSUE.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE FROM BEGIN TO
THE PRESIDENT ON THE SETTLEMENTS ISSUE HANDED TO THE SECRE-
TARY BY DINITZ TODAY, JANUARY 9 (SEPTTEL).
2. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR
URGENT MESSAGE TRANSMITTED TO ME OVER THE TELEPHONE BY
AMBASSADOR LEWIS ON SATURDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 7. THE GOVERN-
MENT OF ISRAEL TOOK YESTERDAY THE FOLLOWING DECISION:
3. 'TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING SETTLEMENTS IN PITHAT RAFIAH
(THE AREA BETWEEN RAFIAH AND EL-ARISH), AND ALONGSIDE THE
GULF OF EILAT BY ADDING ARABLE LAND FOR CULTIVATION AND
INCREASING THE CIVILIAN POPULATION BOTH URBAN AND RURAL.'

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4. THE CABINET SECRETARY WAS INSTRUCTED, IF ASKED WHETHER
THIS MEANS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE TWO
AREAS, TO ANSWER NO.
5. HE WAS, INDEED, ASKED BY THE PRESS AND THIS WAS HIS
REPLY.

6. AS FAR AS JUDEA AND SAMARIA ARE CONCERNED, I ASKED OUR FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. DAYAN, TO CHECK THE RELEVANT MINUTES OF HIS TALKS WITH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, IN SEPTEMBER 1977. AT YESTERDAY'S CABINET SESSION, MR. DAYAN READ FROM THE AFORESAID DOCUMENT, THE COPY OF WHICH IS BEFORE ME AS I WRITE. IT IS GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL CABLE NO. 26 OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1977.

7. IN IT MR. DAYAN INFORMS ME THAT YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, STATED TO HIM 'THE ILLEGALITY OF THE SETTLEMENTS AND THEIR BEING AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE.' I TOLD HIM FRANKLY, DAYAN CONTINUES, 'THAT HE IS MISTAKEN TO ASSUME THAT THE SETTLEMENTS ARE ILLEGAL OR ARE AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE, AND THAT WE ARE NOT FLEXIBLE. THIS GOVERNMENT IS NO LESS FLEXIBLE THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE, BUT THERE CANNOT BE A GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL THAT WILL NOT ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS. I PROMISED HIM THAT I WILL RECOMMEND TO YOU THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE ONLY SIX SETTLEMENTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN MILITARY CAMPS. ..I ADDED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN THE COURSE OF TIME A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN ABOUT ADDITIONAL MILITARY CAMPS IN THE SAME WAY.'

8. THIS STATEMENT BY OUR FOREIGN MINISTER IS BORNE OUT IN THE MINUTES ON THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND MR. DAYAN.

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9. WE HAD, INDEED, BY JANUARY 1, ESTABLISHED THOSE SIX SETTLEMENTS IN MILITARY CAMPS. LAST WEEK, THE CABINET DECIDED TO ESTABLISH FOUR ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS, ALL OF THEM IN MILITARY CAMPS. THIS, TOO, IS IN COMPLETE CONFORMITY WITH WHAT OUR FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND YOUR COLLEAGUES.

10. I CAN THEREFORE SUM UP AND SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL OBSERVES SCRUPULOUSLY, NOT ONLY IN SPIRIT BUT ALSO TO THE LETTER, ANY PROMISE GIVEN TO YOU BY ITS REPRESENTATIVES. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, OF COURSE, FULFILLS ITS COMMITMENTS TOWARDS ITS PEOPLE IN OUR LAND AS IT IS IN DUTY AND HONOR BOUND TO DO.

11. YOURS RESPECTFULLY AND SINCERELY,

12. M. BEGIN. END QUOTE.
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APPROVED BY:S/S:SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 005305

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FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 5305 ACTION TEL AVIV DATED JAN 09:

QTE:S E C R E T STATE 005305

NODIS

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ONLY SIX SETTLEMENTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN MILITARY CAMPS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE005305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AAHOUGHTON:DEF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840148-2266
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780184/aaaactav.tel
Line Count: 232
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3805699
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT FROM BEGIN ON SETTLEMENTS ISSUE
TAGS: PPDC, PBOR, IS, US, EG, JO, (CARTER, JIMMY), (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2eb86de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014